

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

December 1 - 31, 1935

CHINESE TEXTILE EXHIBITION: In commemoration of the second anniversary of our opening, the Loan Galleries will be occupied for the month of December by a Special Exhibition of Chinese Textiles. Opening on Sunday, December 1st, the exhibition will come largely from the permanent collection, although other museums, including the Metropolitan, are lending for the occasion.

The art of silk-weaving, the most important branch of decorative textiles, originated in China, according to some critics, as early as the third millenium B.C. For centuries the art was a monopoly of China, coming to Europe only in the time of Justinian, when two Persian monks brought the eggs of the silkworm to Constantinople in 550 A.D., secreting them in a hollow bamboo tube. From this center, the cultivation of the silkworm and silk weaving spread all over Europe, but China always continued to produce the finest weaves and the most distinctive patterns.

More fragile than hardier linen or woollen fabrics, there are few decorated silks earlier than the 13th and 14th centuries that remain to us and these are chiefly of European origin and are ecclesiastical vestments that have been preserved in church treasures. For the most part, existing Chinese examples date from the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties, although rare fragments of earlier date are found in Japanese collections. The permanent collection has as fine a group of the textiles of these later periods as can be found in any museum, and includes not only lengths of brocades which were buried in tombs, but also secular and religious coats and robes.

The most interesting group comes from the tomb of Kuo Chin Wang, who was the seventeenth son of K'ang Hsi and lived in the early part of the 18th century. It includes whole rolls of brocades of special designs that were used only for the imperial family and coats that were worn by the Prince who was a great patron of the arts and a painter. The Gallery collection includes a fine portrait of him, painted on silk, and this will be shown with the textiles.

The three loan galleries will be used for this special exhibition and elaborate atmospheric settings have been built for the show. These will include a typical 18th century Chinese room with fine examples of furniture of the period, a family altar pavillion, a temple scene and a reproduction of a Chinese theatre with the heavily embroidered gold and silver costumes worn by the native actors. These all come from the Imperial Palace Theatre at Peking, and were used for the private performances given for the Emperor Ch'ien Lung in the 18th century. In a temple scene, Lama priest robes presented by K'ang Hsi to the temple at Jehol will be shown.

This exhibition will be one of the most important ones of Chinese textiles ever shown in America, and from the point of view of reproduced settings, will be the most spectacular yet staged by the Gallery.

ENGLISH PRINT-MAKERS: With the cooperation of Miss Frances M. Logan, gallery 15 will house a group of prints by English artists, lent for the month of December from Miss Logan's fine collection in celebration of the second anniversary of our opening.

The work of Muirhead Bone, G. L. Brockhurst and D. Y. Cameron will be featured. These three artists have enjoyed an unparalleled popularity for a number of years, and the appearance of a new plate by any one of them is a great art event.

Miss Logan's collection contains such rare items as a beautiful

"Spanish Good Friday" and a "Portrait of Tagore" by Bone and a superb impression of Cameron's "Five Sisters of York", which many feel is his best plate.

Brockhurst, the youngest of the group, is justly famous for the brilliancy, the superb finish, and the display of technical mastery in his plates. No other artist has been able, in the medium of etching, to catch with such amazing perfection the sheen of silk, the gossamer of a lace shawl or the texture of hair. Miss Logan is lending "Black Silk Dress" and "La Tresse", examples in which his prowess is shown at its best.

Since none of these artists is eligible for purchase by the Gallery, it is a rare pleasure and opportunity to study them in the print rooms.

BLAMPIED EXHIBITION: Print Gallery 16 will be occupied for the month of December by a group of the etchings and dry-points of Edmund Blampied, lent from the collection of Robert B. Fizzell of this city.

Blampied was born in 1886 on the island of Jersey and spent his early life there, working on the farm and not even seeing a town until he was fourteen. At this time, large numbers of Norman and Breton peasants came over annually to dig potatoes. Blampied worked with them, and came to know them in every phase of their life. This fact, coupled with a life-long passion for horses, accounts for most of his subject matter, and the sympathetic knowledge with which he portrays it.

His earliest training was in a local art school, and he still maintains that he learned all he knows there. Later he went to London to study, where his sure draftsmanship and trenchant line won him recognition and a scholarship at the Lambeth Art School. He eked out a living doing black and white drawings for the "Daily Chronicle", learned the technique of etching from Walter Seymour, and had his first plates accepted in 1914. Due to the war, they were not published until 1919, and from that time, his etched works have commanded more attention than that of any other contemporary artist.

While his technical processes may be compared to the works of other artists using the same mediums, Blampied is unique for the purity of his line and for the exquisite quality of his drypoint. We may catch something of Forain in his subject matter, but there is never the moral preachment against social injustices in Blampied's plates. He knows and loves his peasant types, and whether they are working in the fields with their stalwart horses, slyly sharing a bit of gossip beside the great open hearth or passing a convivial evening at the village bar, he sketched them rapidly, surely, amazingly suggesting movement, and always with a keen sense of humor.

From the average collector's point of view, the most popular contemporary maker of prints, a Blampied Exhibition will be one of great interest.

WEDNESDAY LECTURES: On Wednesday Evening, December 4th at 8 P.M., Mr. Harold Woodbury Parsons will lecture on Veronese, centering his talk on our great painting by this artist, "Christ and the Centurion", which has just undergone a thorough cleaning and is being featured as the Masterpiece for the week of December 1st.

A later variant of the same subject included in the Prado at Madrid, our canvas is an improved composition and is interesting because of the addition of two portrait heads. Mr. Parsons has just come from Madrid where he studied the Prado version and will be able to make interesting comparisons. The beautiful colour and luminous quality for which Veronese was most famous, now can be seen for the first time in our cleaned canvas.

Wednesday Evening, December 11th, Mr. Sickman will give the fourth of his lectures on Oriental Art, speaking on "Origins of Buddhist Art". In connection with this lecture, the fine Gandharan Figure from the Indian Gallery, which is one of the most superb examples of early Buddhist sculpture, will be featured as the Masterpiece of the Week.

On Wednesday Evening, December 18th, Mr. Sickman will also lecture on "Early Chinese Sculpture". The Gallery collection is particularly strong in this rare field, our examples ranking perhaps first among American museums. As Masterpiece of the Week, the outstanding Sui Bodhisattva which was added to the collection only last summer, will be featured. It is one of the finest examples of its period out of China.

As the Gallery will be closed on Christmas Day, the 25th, there will be no lecture for that week. The beautiful and colourful "Madonna of the Carnation" by Joos Van Cleve will be featured as the Masterpiece for Christmas week. In subject matter, it is particularly fitting.

The Gallery will be open without charge on New Year's Day, from two until six, and there will be no lecture that evening.

FRIENDS OF ART: At their annual meeting at the Gallery on November 24th, it was announced that there had been presented to the permanent collection through the Friends of Art, the popular painting "View of Malnate" by the young American artist, Luigi Lucioni. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. James, this canvas was first shown at an exhibition in the gallery in April, 1934, and was submitted to the Friends of Art last December. It is one of the artist's finest landscapes and shows a view of the little town in northern Italy which was the original home of his family.

Through the same offices, there was also presented to the permanent collection by the original group of Friends of Art, which was disbanded some years ago, an outstanding still life "Dead Pheasant" by Henry Varnum Poor. Born in Chapman, Kansas, Poor has achieved great success in the field of painting and is represented in most of the public museums of America. Containing superb passages which show his marked technical ability, the painting will be featured as the Masterpiece of the Week for December 29th.

MUSICAL EVENTS: The Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will give its December concert in the Auditorium on Sunday the 15th at 3:30 P.M. The program will feature Chinese songs, centering about the Special Exhibition of Chinese Textiles.

The Junior College Chorus under the direction of George Sidney Stanton will give a program of Christmas music in Kirkwood Hall on Sunday, December 22nd at 3:30 P.M.

WESTERN GALLERY: Three copies of paintings by Hals, including two portraits and one of his large composition pieces, have been hung in the Western Gallery. They are very valuable for comparative purposes as they date from his early colourful period, in contrast to the portrait of a Gentleman in the Dutch Room which is of his late black and white style. There have also been placed on exhibit two portraits after Rembrandt, one a self-portrait of the artist in his old age. The Chase copy of the "Weavers" by Velazquez, one of his finest genre scenes, has also been hung.

RECEPTION: The Trustees and Staff gave a reception for the Volunteer Workers in the Educational Department on Wednesday evening, November 20th. The most important activity carried on by the Gallery is the work with children, and this could not be done without the generous support of these volunteers.

LOTUS BLOSSOM CONTEST: Billy Binns, 34 South 14th Street, Kansas City, Kansas, won the first prize in the lotus blossom contest for the Saturday morning classes in finding sixty examples of the lotus on objects in the collection. He was presented with a Chinese good-luck print, representing children shaking the money tree.

500,000th VISITOR: On Sunday, November 3, Mrs. Roscoe Seaver of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the half millionth visitor to pass through the turnstiles of the Gallery. This is an extraordinary attendance when one considers that the Gallery has not yet been open two years, and is enabling us to keep up our record of 1,000 per day.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: Dr. and Mrs. Osvald Siren spent two days at the Gallery recently. Dr. Siren is the Curator of Oriental Art at the National Museum of Stockholm and found our Chinese department one of the finest he had visited. He is the author of important books on Italian and Chinese painting, and believes that once known, our Gallery will be the mecca of all foreign visitors to America.

Mrs. Alva Steadman of the Honolulu Academy of Arts was a recent visitor at the Gallery and spent much time studying our installation. She was particularly interested in the Georgian Room, as her gallery plans to install a similar period background.

Mr. Boardman Robinson of the Art Center of Colorado Springs spent a day at the Gallery and expressed his admiration for our collection and particularly for the work being done with the school children.

RADIO BROADCASTS: Station W9XBY is very generously continuing to allow time for Gallery announcements on Janet's Club Calendar. The next broadcast will be on Monday, December 2, at five o'clock, followed by one on Monday, December 16 and Monday, December 30 at the same hour.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Gallery tours - Dec. 1 -31 at 2 p.m. No charge to join them.	Dec. 3 -	Veronese	Mr. Gardner
	" 4 -	American Indian Art	Miss Hughes
	" 5 -	Japanese Art	Mr. Sickman
	" 6 -	English and French Painting	Mr. Wittmann
	Dec. 10-	Gandharan Figure	Miss Hughes
	" 11 -	Classical Art	Mr. Freeman
	" 12 -	Chinese Bronzes and Painting	Mr. Sickman
	" 13 -	Prints	Mr. Wittmann
	Dec. 17 -	Sui Bodhisattva	Mr. Sickman
	" 18 -	Near Eastern Art	Miss Hughes
	" 19 -	Chinese Sculpture and and Temple	Mr. Sickman
	" 20 -	Italian and Spanish Painting	Mr. Freeman
	Dec. 24 -	Van Cleve	Mr. Gardner
	" 25 -	Holiday	
	" 26 -	Chinese Ceramics	Mr. Sickman
" 27 -	American Wing	Miss Jackson	
Evening lectures - 8 p.m. in the Auditorium. No admission charge.	Dec. 4 -	Veronese -	Mr. Harold W. Parsons
	Dec. 11 -	Origins of Buddhist Art -	Mr. Sickman
	Dec. 18 -	Early Chinese Sculpture -	Mr. Sickman